

Malacologia Monensis: a Catalogue of the Mollusca inhabiting the Isle of Man and the neighbouring Sea. By Edward Forbes, For. Sec. B.S. &c. Edin. 1838. Duod. pp. 63, with three plates.

WE are partial to books of this description, which, although requiring no high attainments on the part of their authors, and productive of little fame and no money, are essential towards the completion of a British Fauna, and are very acceptable to that class of men who find their "hobby" in the quiet pursuit of collecting objects of natural history,—men whose pleasure it is to discover *species* hitherto unknown, and who accustom themselves to see

" Form in things which to the eye
Half-read is but deformity;—
Grandeur in mean things and small,
And God's great handiwork in all!"

To such this will be an acceptable volume, containing as it does a copious list of species found in a little island, of the conchology of which little is to be learned in works of more pretension and greater extent. A few more notices illustrative of *habit* in the creatures, and an occasional note relative to anything remarkable in the *habitat*, would have been agreeable, and would have served to keep the reader lingering a little over pages which are essentially a catalogue, and exhibit scarcely more than a list of species. We would strongly impress on the attention of local Faunists the extrinsic aids and ornaments by which they might render their "opuscula subseciva" somewhat more extensively interesting and attractive.

As we glance over the pages, we remark that *Doris Flemingii*, as *D. nigricans* of Fleming is here called, is no other than *D. pilosa*, confirming a conjecture offered at p. 55 of the 'Annals.' The *Melibæa fragilis* of Mr. Forbes, rather ambiguously characterized, is *M. coronata* of the 'Annals,' p. 117. **EUBRANCHUS**, a new genus among the Nudibranchia, is thus defined:

Corpore ovato, convexiusculo; tentaculis quatuor; oculis nullis; dorso branchiis ovatis instructo:

and the only species, *E. tricolor*,

Corpore albo-carneo; branchiis pyriformo-ovatis tricoloribus. Long. † un. Lat. †.

The genus is referred, erroneously in our opinion, to the family *Glaucea*: it rather belongs to an aberrant group, not yet defined, and to which *Triopa* likewise appertains. In many ensuing pages there is nothing to detain us until we reach the "*Naticidæ*," which Mr. F. has attentively studied, and his remarks on the species will interest

the conchologist. Under *Lima* and *Arca* there are remarks equally attractive; and lastly, we find the author of opinion that the *Unio Roissyi* is merely one of the variations of *U. margaritifera*.

This brochure is a specimen of a more extensive work which we hope the author will prosecute and complete: we must bargain, however, for better plates.

Archiv für Naturgeschichte. In Verbindung mit mehreren Gelehrten, herausgegeben von Dr. Ar. Fr. Aug. Wiegmann, Professor an der Friederich Wilhelms-Universität zu Berlin. Viertes Jahrgang. Erstes Heft. Berlin, 1838.

As this is the first occasion of mentioning this journal in our pages, we shall take the opportunity, before noticing the contents of the present part, to inform our readers of the general tenor of this work. Its plan resembles our own except in one point, namely, in the annual Reports on the progress of the various branches of natural science which it contains, and which are of the greatest value to all naturalists. The zoologist finds notices of all the works which have appeared in any country on zoology, with short criticisms; also every new species, and generally with the characters, giving him much of the information which is most essential. The lover of vegetable physiology will find in the valuable reports of Prof. Meyen the various labours of physiologists, and the conclusions to which they have come, criticized and compared with each other; so that without the necessity of consulting works, many of which are extremely expensive, he may be sufficiently informed with regard to the objects of his pursuit to know generally what has been done, and not to imagine he is making discoveries merely because he is unacquainted with what others have accomplished; whilst in regard to those subjects on which further information may be desired, the sources from whence it may be obtained are carefully indicated. We cannot too much recommend these reports to our countrymen, as the labours of foreign naturalists are from various causes too tardily and imperfectly known here; and as they are the productions of persons well known to the scientific world as being well qualified for the task of preparing them. The zoological report is drawn up by Prof. Wiegmann; that on helminthology by Dr. v. Siebold; on entomology by Dr. Erichson; on palæontology (*Petrefactenkunde*) by Dr. Quenstedt; on vegetable physiology by Prof. Meyen; on phytochemistry by M. Marquart of Bonn. Of these, Meyen's report for the year 1836 has been translated in part, and Marquart's on phytochemistry for 1835 entirely, and are to be found in the Philosophical Magazine. On account of

Ann. Nat. Hist. Vol. 1. No. 4. June 1838. Y